

**Allowed Claims for U.S. Serial No. – 09/933,884****KPG No. 01134 US**

1. An imageable composition comprising:  
an acid curable composition;  
an acid generator;  
an infrared absorber; and a strong, non-volatile acid having a pKa of not more than about 8.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said acid curable composition comprises:  
a binder; and  
a crosslinking agent for said binder.
5. The composition of claim 2, wherein said binder is selected from the group consisting of a polyol, a polyether polyol, a novolak resin, a resole resin, an acrylic resin, a polyester resin, an amino resin, an amido resin and combinations thereof.
7. The composition of claim 2, wherein said crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of a resole resin, an amino resin, an amido resin, an epoxy compound having at least two epoxide groups and a combination thereof.
14. The composition of claim 1, wherein said acid generator is an ultraviolet, visible, infrared or heat activated compound.
18. The composition of claim 1, wherein said acid generator is selected from the group consisting of an iodonium salt, a sulfonium salt, a hydrocarbyloxysulfonium salt, a hydrocarbyloxyammonium salt, an aryl diazonium salt and combinations thereof.
27. The composition of claim 1, wherein said acid has a pKa of not more than about 4.

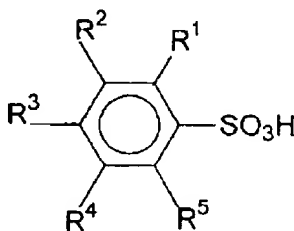
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28. The composition of claim 27, wherein said strong nonvolatile acid is a sulfonic acid represented by the formula:



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl of 6 to 22 carbon atoms and a mixture thereof.

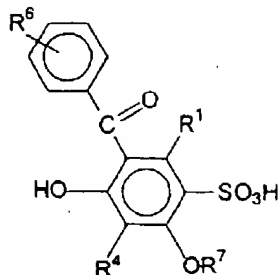
30. The composition of claim 28, wherein said sulfonic acid is an aryl sulfonic acid represented by the formula:



wherein each of  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$  and  $\text{R}^5$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, haloalkyl of 1 to 22 carbon atoms having at least one halogen, aryl of 6 to 12 carbon atoms, halogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, cyano, nitro, alkoxycarbonyl and acyl.

32. The composition of claim 28, wherein said sulfonic acid is represented by the formula:

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wherein each of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, haloalkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms having at least one halogen, aryl of 6 to 12 carbon atoms, halogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, cyano, nitro, alkoxycarbonyl and acyl and wherein R<sup>7</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, haloalkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms having at least one halogen, aryl of 6 to 12 carbon atoms, alkoxycarbonyl and acyl.

33. The composition of claim 32, wherein said aryl sulfonic acid is 3-benzoyl-4-hydroxy-6-methoxybenzenesulfonic acid.

34. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a photothermal converter material.

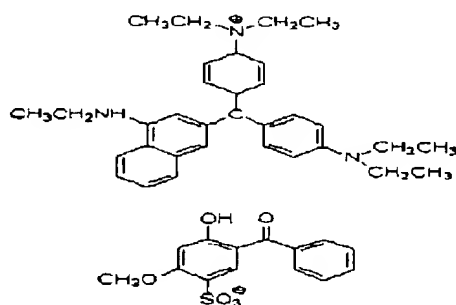
35. The composition of claim 1, wherein said infrared absorber comprises a conjugate base of a non-volatile acid.

38. The composition of claim 1, wherein said infrared absorber is selected from the group consisting of a pigment, a dye and combinations thereof.

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40. The composition of claim 1, wherein said infrared absorber is a dye selected from the group consisting of cyanine dyes, squarylium dyes, pyrylium salts and nickel thiolate complexes.

42. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a blue dye represented by the formula:



43. An imageable element comprising:  
a substrate; and  
an imageable composition coated on a surface of said substrate, said imageable composition comprising an acid curable composition, an acid generator, an infrared absorber and a strong non-volatile acid having a pKa of not more than about 8.

45. A method of producing an imaged element comprising the steps of:  
providing an imageable element comprising a substrate and  
an imageable composition coated on a surface of said substrate, said composition comprising an acid curable composition, an acid generator, an infrared absorber and a strong, non-volatile acid;  
imagewise exposing said imageable element to radiation to produce an imagewise exposed element having exposed and unexposed regions;

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baking said imagewise exposed element at a temperature and period of time sufficient to produce a cured element; and  
contacting said cured element and a developer to remove the unexposed regions and thereby produce said imaged element.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein said exposing step is carried out using an infrared laser.